

Meeting: Regional Waste Advisory Committee (RWAC) Meeting
Date: Thursday, May 19, 2022
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Place: Zoom meeting
Purpose: *The purpose of the Regional Waste Advisory Committee is to provide input on certain policies, programs, and projects that implement actions in the 2030 Regional Waste Plan, as well as to provide input on certain legislative and administrative actions that the Metro Council or Chief Operating Officer will consider related to implementation of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan.*

Members in Attendance:

Marta McGuire, Metro
Peter Brandom, City of Hillsboro
Sharetta Butcher, North by Northeast Community Health Center (NxNE)
Alondra Flores Aviña, Student [check with Alondra but I think she is with Trash for Peace]
Bunsereyrihy Kong, Oregon Cambodian Buddhist Society
Lindsay Marshall, City of Tualatin
Shannon Martin, City of Gresham
Christa McDermott, Community Environmental Services, PSU
Audrey O'Brien, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Eben Polk, Clackamas County
Arianne Sperry, City of Portland
Thao Tu, Vietnamese Community of Oregon
Beth Vargas Duncan, Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association (ORRA)

1. CALL TO ORDER & MEETING OVERVIEW

Marta McGuire (Metro) brought the virtual meeting to order at 8:34 am and previewed the agenda.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public.

3. Introductions

Marta McGuire introduced herself as new WPES Director. Also introduced Rob Nathan, Equity Culture and Engagement Coordinator who is involved in supporting engagement with RWAC.

4. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event Update

Marta McGuire introduced Metro staff, Jon Mayer.

Key points of the presentation included:

Pandemic created a pause in large scale events. Recently Metro has struggled to find staff to support these events. 2021 was focused on small scale, partner-lead events. These were paired with other services such as vaccine clinics. In 2022 Metro is bringing back large scale events, but at a reduced capacity, both because of staffing, but because of focus on small scale events. Metro is working on a long term strategic plan for these events.

Member Discussion Included:

Peter Brandom, City of Hillsboro, expressed that there is a huge need in Washington County for these services. Asked how COVID relates to the delay in returning these services.

Jon Mayer, Metro, responded that operations has explained that staff that were trained for large scale events no longer available. Metro is having to recruit and train new staff to do this work. The small scale events are more nimble and targeted so do not require the same level of certification that hazardous waste requires.

Ms. McGuire added that these staff are seasonal, which add another layer of difficulty for hiring. Metro hears the need, and wants to deliver on that.

Beth Vargas-Duncan, is hoping to get clarity on how Metro is partnering with folks, and keeping separation from franchise territory?

Mr. Mayer responded that in Portland, Metro works closely with City of Portland staff to ensure that we follow requirements. Any collections in Washington or Clackamas County Metro works with staff to meet franchise requirements.

Shannon Martin, City of Gresham, expressed that Gresham would love to connect more, and work on long term vision.

Eben Polk, Clackamas County, wondering what the philosophy for bulky waste is at Metro now and moving forward?

Mr. Mayer responded that Metro wants to ensure multifamily service standards are being met. Metro is focusing on greatest disposals and underserved communities. Dumpsites have forced expansion, but again focusing on communities with greatest barriers.

Ms. McGuire added that during budget cuts in 2021, the disposal voucher program was cut, because it was also determined that the program was not serving those with the most barriers.

Lindsay Marshall, City of Tualatin, suggested that the southeast end of Washington County get forgotten. The area would love something closer.

Mr. Martin added that Gresham is looking at finding ways to add bulky waste to their standard services. Would love to discuss where the funds come to pay for this service.

Christa McDermott, PSU, suggested that communication around hazardous waste collection is an issue regarding frequency, and details. It feels there is sense of desperation in the community for these events. Knowing the schedule would help change mentality around these events. For example having it known that there would be 4 times throughout the whole year at a single site.

Mr. Mayer responded that communication strategies are being evaluated.

Ms. Vargas-Duncan, added that she is collecting a group to speak about bulky waste that Mr. Martin mentioned.

5. Garbage and Recycling Facilities Plan Development

Marta McGuire introduced Metro staff, Will Elder.

Key points of the presentation included:

Mr. Elder is presenting updates on the Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan, and report back on feedback from previous meeting that has influenced the outcomes and objectives on the project. The community advisory group has been selected for the GRSFP. The GRSFP project values are grounded in the regional waste plan. Since last meeting, Metro has been looking at how to engage with tribal governments.

Feedback from last meeting included:

- Is Metro the region or the agency? Working to be specific and clarify for outcomes.
- Making sure that there is a better overview for the document because it is so dense.
- Call out outcomes that reduce climate change.

These have been updated in the document. These values will be presented to Council, CORE, and the community advisory committee.

Member Discussion Included:

Mr. Brandom asked for clarification on the definition of Metro Region vs. Metro owned facility language. And highlighted that this can relate to rate regulation, which is important.

Mr. Polk, asked if there were additional stakeholder engagement? Existing facilities have many customers, assuming that Metro is interested in getting input from customers.

Mr. Elder responded that there are three different advisory committees, as outreach is developed there will be outreach to haulers, facility owners, customers, and community. Broad feedback will be brought back to this group for feedback.

Mr. Polk added that this plan is important opportunity to build consensus on investments in the system. Doesn't want to miss the opportunity to do so in this process.

Arianne Sperry, City of Portland, asked what is the process to engage with local governments?

Estee Segal, Metro, responded that Metro is setting up a formal process for this engagement. Open to feedback on this process.

Ms. McGuire clarified that RWAC will continue to be engaged in each step of this process, not just the new community group.

Mr. Brandom asked that cost ranges of facilities be modest.

Mr. Elder responded that a range of prices will be presented. Metro will focus on a clear picture for Council and the region to see.

6. 2022-2023 Schedule of Topics

Ms. McGuire proposed the plan that the June 2022 RWAC meeting will be cancelled to allow for forecasting for the next year. The 2022-2023 Schedule of Topics will be forecasted and brought back to the group for feedback in July. The committee will continue to be remote for the next six months, and we will revisit what meetings will look like then.

7. Final Remarks

Meeting minutes approval was postponed to July for approval. Ms. McGuire gave a few final remarks to the committee.

MEETING AJOURNED at 9:50 a.m.